SUN DANCE PLANNED FOR BIG FAIR HELD IN UINTAH BASIN

Indians Will Lend Brilliant Symbolry to Meeting at Fort Duchesne.

[Special to The Herald-Republican.]

Vernal, June 21.—The Uintah basin fair for 1913 is to be held at Fort Duchesne. Last year Uintah county held its fair at Vernal, and that part of the Uintah basin embraced in the former Uintah Indian reservation held its fair at Roosevelt. The memory of the famous "Hay Palace" (the fair ampitheatre was actually built of baled alfalfa hay) is still fresh. Acting upon the invitation of Indian Agent Jewel D. Martin that the whole Uintah basin unite in one mammoth fair at the site of the former military post, Fort Duchesne, the commercial clubs of the various cities held a conference with Mr. Martin and the joint fair was immediately announced.

Among the points urged by Mr. Martin are that the entire Indian life of the former Uintah reservation can be centered at Fort Duchesne, giving thousands of visitors a chance to see the Indian encampments, see the famous Indian war dance, the Indian's most sacred ceremonial and appeal to the Great Spirit, the sun dance. Mr. Martin has won the hearts of the red men and at a word from him the tribes will don their war paint, bring out their cherished scalp-locks, tomahawks that have seen massacre of whites and reds, and will engage in royal sham battle before the assembled thousands of their white brethren. Fort Duchesne, with its broad parade ground skirted by abrupt sage covered hills, would afford a wonderful vantage point for thousands of people to witness in perfect setting and safety a thousand Indian braves in fierce sham battle.

The authors of the Sun Dance opera, performed with such signal success in Vernal early in the year, have been appealed to to give an open air performance of this beautiful opera. The idea has been favorably reported. Again, Fort Duchesne with its spacious government buildings, its tiers of officers' quarters, its spacious lawns and waterworks system, was urged by Mr. Martin as being ideal for the event of a great fair. In addition the Mormon ecclesiastics of the Uintah basin and the Duchesne stakes have been asked to hold a joint conference during the progress of the fair which would likely induce such high church dignitaries as President Joseph F. Smith and others to attend. The governor and staff, representing the state, and prominent men in the departments of the interior and of Indian affairs at Washington are scheduled to visit Fort Duchesne at that time.

A sale of Indian lands, lands whose owners have died since the allotments were made, will be held at Fort Duchesne the immediate days following the date of the Uintah basin fair. Altogether the events now planning for September 18, 19, 20 at Fort Duchesne will mark a new era in the history of the Uintah basin.